



# U3A in Kennet **Magazine** Autumn 2020

*In this issue*

News from the Executive Committee and U3A Trust

***Coffee Exchange*** *via Zoom*

**The Kennet U3A Talks** *via Zoom*

plus

**Annual General Meeting Agenda and Reports**

## ***In this issue***

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Welcome to the Autumn 2020 issue of the **U3A in Kennet Magazine**.

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*Front Cover Photograph: "Savernake" by Lorenza Soffiantini*

Copy deadline for New Year Issue: **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Please send contributions to the Editor [magazine@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:magazine@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

We welcome photographs to accompany your contributions. Please ensure that any photos have copyright approval and that they are sent as separate files in .jpg or other standard graphics format. The Editor reserves the right to amend, or not include, any copy submitted. The magazine is set in DM Sans font.

**The U3A in Kennet Magazine is published by U3A in Kennet  
Registered Charity 1028680**

U3A in Kennet website: [www.u3ainkennet.org.uk](http://www.u3ainkennet.org.uk)

U3A National website: [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

## **Introduction**

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We are going through a period of enormous change. Since the government's "Stay at Home" message in March, life has changed in so many ways—both large and small. People who have had to self isolate have had to learn to master on-line food deliveries or get neighbours to help. We have all missed the spontaneous human contact that we thrive on. We have had to adapt to the ever changing sets of rules that govern how we live.



*David Hammond*

U3A in Kennet has had to adapt as well. Our mission to support each other with learning, stimulation, exercise and entertainment has had to be met in new ways. It's good to see how Zoom and voice conferencing have helped many groups get back nearly to normal. It is also good to see our "outdoor" groups restarting in a limited way with only 6 people together. There are also some groups who have met either socially or for a meeting outside in a member's garden. With current guidance, we cannot socialise with more than one other household indoors, so meetings in members' houses cannot take place. Local venues are beginning to re-open with restrictions. Any group planning a face-to-face meeting should consult with the Groups Coordinator before holding the meeting and should complete a Risk Assessment.

In view of the limitations of face-to-face meetings, we will be holding our AGM using Zoom and hope that everyone will feel able to join this. Those without access to the internet can join by telephone. We will be electing new officers and members of the Executive Committee. Please think about volunteering. It is one of our strengths that we rotate our leadership: it brings fresh thinking and new ideas. But it needs people to come forward.

This issue includes all the details of our AGM as well as updates on what are groups are doing.

***David Hammond***

# Coffee Exchange

We have now relaunched Coffee Exchange as a virtual meeting using Zoom video conferencing\*.

On **25<sup>th</sup> June**, we heard from **Jeff Hide** talking about the **Tuk Tuk**.

On **30<sup>th</sup> July**, we heard from **Riona Houghton** who talked about the **Marie Curie Organisation's** work with the terminally ill.



On **27<sup>th</sup> August**, we learned about the **US Presidential Election** from **Tom Horwitz**. You can see his presentation again at: [www.u3ainkennet.org.uk/virtual-coffee-exchange-27th-august-presentation/](http://www.u3ainkennet.org.uk/virtual-coffee-exchange-27th-august-presentation/)

On **24<sup>th</sup> September**, we will hear from **Henry Oliver** from the **North Wessex Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** on the geology of the North West Downs: How it was formed and prehistoric man's impact on the landscape. He will talk about Barbary castle, Avebury, Stonehenge and how its stones were extracted from West Woods.

Future speakers will be announced through the eBulletin Newsletter.

We have now also introduced a "break-out" session during the Coffee Exchange to allow people to chat in small groups. This is designed to more closely enable the sort of social interaction we were able to have at the Wesley Hall when we were meeting face-to-face. Some indication of the success of the new Coffee Exchange was the discussion that continued in August after the meeting was closed. You can also join Coffee Exchange by phone if you can't or don't want to use the internet and Zoom.

*\* Zoom call details will be sent out to all members the day before the meeting*

# The Kennet U3A October Talk

2.15pm Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020

The Talk will start after the Annual General Meeting  
*via Zoom video conferencing and telephone*

## Antarctic Lockdown



### ***Speaker:* Peter Noble**

Fifty years ago Peter Noble quit teaching to spend two continuous years in Antarctica, experiencing what we might now call 'lockdown' ie total isolation from normal life. In this illustrated talk he reflects on that experience and contrasts it with modern Antarctic life. The high points of his tour was to discover, by dog sled, an unknown range of mountains and then lead a major tractor expedition to explore and map those summits.

These experiences gave the key to his career in outdoor education working in the Lake District, Snowdonia and then opening a new outdoor pursuits centre in Derbyshire. Peter and his wife Jenny moved to Marlborough in 2006 where he soon joined the U3A committee as Groups Coordinator for seven years and Chairman for the last three of those. He still enjoys climbing (mountains, rocks or trees!), cycling, motor-biking and also produces the local maps of Savernake and West Woods.

## **Executive Committee News**

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### **Kiaran Roughan is new Treasurer**

Kiaran joined U3A in Kennet in April 2019. He is a member of the Cycling and Striders Groups. He was co-opted to the Executive Committee in July 2020 to replace Randal Richards when Randal and his wife Pat left the area to move to Norfolk.

Kiaran and his family moved to the area 30 years ago and he lives with his wife Helen in Manton. In his professional life, he was a town planner and prior to retirement he worked for local authority in Berkshire.

Kiaran replaces Randal Richards. Randal, and his wife Pat, moved to Norfolk in August to be closer to their family.



*Kiaran Roughan*



*Chris Gamblin*



*Jeff Hide*

### **Chris Gamblin to stand down as Groups Coordinator and Jenny Oakshott as Secretary**

After four years, Chris Gamblin has decided to stand down as Groups Coordinator at the AGM in October. Chris has driven the continuing development of our groups through his thoughtful and empathetic approach. He will be replaced by Jeff Hide who will work with Chris over the coming weeks. Jeff will initially help Group Leaders carry out

## **Executive Committee News (continued)**

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Risk Assessments for all new planned face-to-face activities.

Jenny Oakshott will also be standing down as Secretary at the AGM. She joined the Executive Committee in 2014 and took responsibility for Publicity and Speakers. She was appointed Secretary in 2017.

Our thanks go to Randal, Chris and Jenny for the tremendous work they have done over the last few years.

## **Volunteers needed**

We still have spaces on the U3A in Kennet Executive Committee. We have a volunteer who is considering the role of Secretary. However there are other roles on the Executive Committee and we have two vacancies. Do consider putting yourself forward.

## **National AGM to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> September**

The Annual General Meeting of the Third Age Trust will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> September. U3A in Kennet has up to three voting delegates (based on our membership size). As well as electing Directors to the board of the U3A Trust, there is a resolution to increase the fee paid by each U3A to the national organisation from £3.50 per member per year to £4.00 from April 2022.

More details, including the Annual Report and Accounts can be found at: [www.u3a.org.uk/events/agm-2020](http://www.u3a.org.uk/events/agm-2020)

## **The Great Marlborough September Clean**

Marlborough Council has signed up to the Great British September Clean from 11<sup>th</sup>–27<sup>th</sup> September. Social distancing means that you can join to do litter picking alone or in pairs or you can do a small family group. The council will provide litter pickers and bags.

[www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk/whats-on/eventdetail/2367/-/great-marlborough-september-clean](http://www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk/whats-on/eventdetail/2367/-/great-marlborough-september-clean)

## **Executive Committee News (continued)**

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### **High Street Project launched**

A major national U3A research project has been launched aimed at finding out how Covid-19 has changed the places where we shop.



*Marlborough High Street*

The project was initiated by Peter Cox of North London U3A who was interested in comparing today's high streets with those of the past. The coronavirus pandemic caused a refocus and a need to gather information as soon as possible so that it would include shops which were there before the pandemic.

Project teams from across the country will record details of premises in their local high street including photographs of shop fronts. The base-line is March 2020. The intention is to visit the same high streets in 18 months time to note what changes have taken place.

The results will form a landmark report for publication to coincide with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U3A Trust in 2022.

Local U3As can extend the study to include other aspects as a local Shared Learning Project.

U3A in Kennet has registered for the project and we already have a volunteer, Yvonne Cunnane, to lead the study of Marlborough High Street. More details will follow. The intention is to start immediately to gather the base-line data.

**Contact: Yvonne Cunnane [highstreet@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:highstreet@u3ainkennet.org.uk)**



## Executive Committee News (continued)

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### 100 members attend Kennet U3A June Talk

Over 100 members attended the Kennet U3A June Talk on 17<sup>th</sup> June which was held via Zoom. Some without internet access were able to join using the telephone option. Still more saw the talk via the on-line recording after the event.

The Talk focussed on health and wellbeing and was presented by Sir Muir Gray CBE MD who is a senior and well respected national figure in public health. He is also the Director of the Optimal Ageing Programme for Living Longer Better ([www.livelongerbetter.net](http://www.livelongerbetter.net)).

Sir Muir explained that the number of people in the UK over the age of 80 will double during the next 10 years. Recognising that although medical research has produced many amazing treatments which have increased life expectancy, most people want to increase their healthy life expectancy, to live longer better and not spend the last years of life in a home or dependent on children. He confirmed that research has proved that this is possible and that ageing is not a problem until the 90ties.

Knowledge (the elixir of life) is the key to understanding how the risk of dementia, frailty and dependency **can** be reduced by focussing on increasing physical, social and intellectual activity. These steps help people to become physically fitter and to feel better and, perhaps of greatest importance, to increase their brain ability and reduce the risk of dementia. He explained the difference between ageing, loss of fitness, frailty and wellbeing and stated that we should all take more (not less) exercise (the 'miracle cure') as we age. He also recommended activities such as taking up a new hobby or language to



*Sir Muir Gray*

**How to stay well  
and increase wellbeing,  
physically and mentally,  
during the lockdown,  
and live longer better in  
the years to come**

stimulate the brain, helping others which provides a sense of purpose as well as positive thinking and a sensible diet.

You can watch the presentation again and get copies of the charts used at:

[www.u3ainkennet.org.uk/kennet-u3a-talk-presentation-17-june-2020/](http://www.u3ainkennet.org.uk/kennet-u3a-talk-presentation-17-june-2020/)

**Keeping in Touch:** *It would be helpful if Members could inform the Membership Secretary, of any changes to their contact details, especially email addresses. As email is increasingly used as a means of communication, it is important that we have up-to-date addresses. The easiest way is to email [membershipsec@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:membershipsec@u3ainkennet.org.uk)*

**Nomination to the Executive Committee of the U3A in Kennet**

*To nominate a candidate, please complete the following form and return it or email the information to the Hon Secretary. Please send multiple nominations separately.*

Post: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

***I declare I am willing to stand***

**Signature of**

**Candidate:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please return by Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 to:

Mrs Jenny Oakshott, Hon Secretary

11 Fortunes Field, Broad Hinton, Swindon. SN4 9PW

or email: [secretary@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:secretary@u3ainkennet.org.uk) (01793 731165)

*NB If you have any difficulty in printing this form, you can copy it out by hand or contact the Hon. Secretary or any other member of the Committee listed in the 2020 Yearbook. Alternatively, the form may be filled in electronically and returned as an email attachment, providing that you are able to append an electronic signature.*

## **Notice of Annual General Meeting / Agenda**

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### **THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**21st October 2020 2.15pm**

#### **NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

NOTICE is hereby given that the  
TWENTY EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the  
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE IN KENNET (WILTSHIRE)  
CHARITY NO. 1028680 will be held on  
WEDNESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 at 2.15 pm  
using Zoom and telephone access  
(*access instructions will be issued before the meeting*)

for the transaction of the following business:

1. Chairman's Welcome and apologies for absence
2. Approve the Minutes of the AGM, October 2019
3. Matters arising from the previous Meeting
4. Chairman's Report
5. Trustees' Report
6. Treasurer's Report and Accounts
7. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts for 2020/21
8. Election of Officers and Committee Members to the Executive Committee: There are 2 officer positions of Treasurer and Secretary to be voted on, 1 co-opted member seeking election and 2 further vacant committee member positions.

***Any other resolutions to be put to the Annual General Meeting must be submitted to the Hon. Secretary in writing and be duly proposed and seconded before 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020.***

Address: Mrs Jenny Oakshott, Hon Secretary  
11 Fortunes Field, Broad Hinton, Swindon. SN4 9PW  
email: [secretary@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:secretary@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

*Please note that the session will be recorded.  
The recording will be deleted after 30 days.*

## **Minutes of 27th AGM held on 23rd October 2019**

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### **1. Chairman's Welcome & Apologies for absence**

The Chairman welcomed all the members to the 27<sup>th</sup> AGM and thanked them for attending. Sufficient members (75) were present to make a quorum

Apologies for absence had been received from:

Barbara Davis, Jennifer Parker, Liz Mercer Banks, Rob and Elinor Mitchenall, Sally Cripps, Ilse Nikolsky, Des and Jenny Clarke, Gerald and Glynis Long, Pat Boyle, Sheila Staines, Jill Horsfall, Dorothy MacLachlan, Betty Dobson, Nan Watt, Val Clowes, Chris Gamblin and Ashley and Carolyn Hoare.

### **2/3. Minutes of AGM held on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

(in Autumn Newsletter)

Acceptance of the October 2018 AGM Minutes was proposed by Cate Mitchell and seconded by Jane Nicholson.

The only matter arising was to note that the changes in the constitution passed at the previous AGM had been duly accepted by the Charity Commission.

The minutes were approved by a show of hands.

### **4. Chairman's Report**

*The Chairman's report was published in the Autumn 2019 Newsletter.*

The Chairman gave a brief summary of the main points of his written report and expressed thanks for the support of his Committee during the past year and also during his 3 year tenure of the role of Chairman. During the year the Committee had been joined by Chris Webb who has taken over the role of Speaker Secretary (now getting Speakers for the monthly Coffee Exchange as well as the quarterly talks). Mike Morison had also been co-opted to shadow Nick Swan who has done a great job as Membership Secretary and Beacon Administrator. He also thanked AnnMarie Newbigin, who is also resigning from the committee, for improving the layout of the ebulletin during her period as the editor.

He was pleased with the development of the U3A in Kennet in his time as Chair, noting particularly the revamped Coffee Exchange meetings, several new Groups opened, including one for Day Trips, and the development of 2 Shared Learning Projects. There was also new equipment bought to assist in some groups and talks, including a new laptop and projector. There had also been close collaboration with Marlborough College and he was delighted to inform the meeting of the proposed Special Interest Day to be held at the College, hosted by the U3A in Kennet on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020, the subject of which would be "Climate Change and Sustainable Futures". More news will follow.

## **Minutes of 27th AGM (continued)**

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### **5. Trustees' Report**

*The Trustees Report was published in the Autumn Newsletter.*

Acceptance was proposed by Nick Swan and seconded by AnnMarie Newbigin

The membership gave their approval by a show of hands.

### **6. Annual Accounts – Treasurer's Report**

*The Treasurer's Report was published in the Autumn Newsletter.*

The Honorary Treasurer's presentation set out details of the income and expenditure over the year August 2018 – July 2019 .

Acceptance was proposed by Mike Morison and seconded by Cate Mitchell.

The membership gave their approval by a show of hands.

The Statement of Accounts was signed off by the Examiner, Diane Ramsay-Arthur. It was proposed that she be appointed to audit next years accounts.

This was proposed by Jill Turner and seconded by AnnMarie Newbigin and also accepted by a show of hands.

### **7. Election of Officers and Committee Members**

A new Chair needed to be elected and David Hammond had applied for this post, leaving his Vice Chair position vacant, for which Jill Turner had applied. Chris Gamblin and Jan Lillywhite sought re-election at the end of their 3 year term and two members, Chris Webb and Mike Morison had been co-opted to the committee during the year but would now need to be formally elected. In addition, Tom Horwitz had applied to join the Committee.

Hon Sec Jenny Oakshott, Hon Treasurer Randal Richards and Publicity Contact John Martin remain the same.

A summary of the election of Committee Officers and Members is shown in the table below together with their sponsors. They were all adopted by the members present by a show of hands for each candidate.

### **9. Any Other Business**

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Proposed / Seconded by</b>	<b>Committee position</b>
<b>David Hammond</b>	Peter Noble Gerald Long	Chair
<b>Jill Turner</b>	Rachel Watson-Smyth Jane Howarth	Vice Chair
<b>Jan Lillywhite</b>	Kathy Perryman Tina Drake	Committee Social Events Sec

## **Minutes of 27th AGM (continued) / Chairman's Report 2020**

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Proposed / Seconded by</b>	<b>Committee position</b>
<b>Chris Gamblin</b>	Pauline Everitt Jane Howarth	Committee Groups Coordinator
<b>Chris Webb</b>	Geoff Hill Rosemary Hawes	Committee Speakers Sec
<b>Mike Morison</b>	Nick Stedman Gordon Hutt	Committee Membership Sec
<b>Tom Horwtiz</b>	Hamzah Patrick Mason	Committee

The newly elected Chairman David Hammond expressed his thanks to the outgoing Chairman for all he had done during his term in office, also outgoing Committee Members Nick Swan and AnnMarie Newbigin. He welcomed recently joined U3A Members and also thanked the Membership for their presence today and for all that many of them do for the U3A in Kennet. He also invited any members to consider joining the Committee and advised them to speak to one of the Committee.

**Annexes** (see Autumn 2019 Magazine)

1. Chairman's Report
2. Trustees' Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Annual Accounts Balance Sheet 2018-19

## **Chairman's Report for 2020 AGM**

When I took over from Graham Barnes as Chairman at the AGM in October 2019, none of us had any idea of the year that lay ahead.

At the AGM Nick Swan and AnneMarie Newbigin left the Executive Committee. John Martin took over the eBulletin Newsletter as well as Publicity and Mike Morison took over as Membership Secretary. Tom Horwitz was elected to the committee and took responsibility for our website and, in November, Jeff Hide joined the committee to look after our event logistics and plans for **U3A Day**.

Our focus at the time was the upcoming **Special Interest Day on Climate Change and Sustainable Futures** organised with the **U3A Bath and Wiltshire Network** and the national **U3A Day**. These were both part of a drive to increase the profile of U3A in Kennet. We continued to work with

## **Chairman's Report 2020 (continued)**

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**Marlborough College** on speaker events and with other groups on planning the **Kennet Valley Oral History Project 2020**. Our **Coffee Exchange** and **Kennet U3A Talks** were continuing to be successful with growing attendances at both. Our **groups** were also thriving with a wide range of activities. Our **website** was updated to make it more streamlined and look better on mobile devices.

In March we held our first **New Members' lunch** but it was already clear that the coronavirus crisis was looming and understandably a number of members decided not to attend. Within two weeks we were all told to stay at home apart from essential shopping and exercise. All our normal activities had to cease.

We launched our "**U3A At Home**" initiative at the end of March. We carried out some tests with Zoom video conferencing and had our first full Executive Committee meeting on Zoom at the beginning of April.

The initial focus was to support our members – especially those who were isolated and not on the internet. Mike Morison established an "email buddy" system where each member not on email was linked with someone living close by who was. The "email buddy" shares information sent by email with those who couldn't receive it.

John Martin set up a private Facebook Group for members to share stories and pictures and increased the frequency of the eBulletin Newsletter.

We also encouraged groups to come together and restart their activities "virtually". Many used Zoom but others shared information by email. Particularly notable were the groups led by Michael Hart who used a free telephone conferencing facility to meet as Michael has no access to the internet. The feedback from this has been excellent and our thanks go to Jill Turner for setting this up.

Over the following months more activities have restarted. By June we were able to report that over half our groups were operating in some form even while outdoor activities were still not permitted. We relaunched our **Kennet U3A Talks** with a Zoom talk by Sir Muir Gray on "*How to stay well and increase wellbeing, physically and mentally, during the lockdown, and live longer better in the years to come*". This was attended by over 100 members – some sharing devices and others joining by telephone. The talk was recorded and was seen by many more who couldn't make the "live" session. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The U3A Trust subsequently arranged for Sir Muir to give the same presentation to a national audience.

## **Chairman's Report 2020 (continued) / Trustees' Report 2020**

Encouraged by that, we also restarted our **Coffee Exchange** programme – again using Zoom. Finding a way of replicating the social interaction of a cup of coffee at the Wesley Hall over Zoom is a challenge and still a “work in progress”. However, by using “breakout rooms” we are giving members a chance to chat in a small group as well as hear an interesting presentation and an update on U3A news. Our August Coffee Exchange had over 50 participants.

Operating under the latest guidance from the Government and U3A National Office some groups are now able to meet face-to-face in a limited way following a Risk Assessment for the specific activity to ensure it can be carried out safely.

It has been a period of significant change and this is likely to continue. It is encouraging to see our groups adapting to the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 and continuing to thrive. We are continuing to welcome new members and expand our groups. Our Special Interest Day has been rescheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and the national U3A Day will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021.

Finally, as we come to another AGM, I would like to thank all our Group Leaders and members of our Executive Committee for all their efforts in keeping our U3A going during these difficult times. I would particularly like to thank Randal Richards, Jenny Oakshott and Chris Gamblin for their outstanding contributions as Hon Treasurer, Hon Secretary and Groups Co-ordinator. These are key roles which have been carried out to an outstanding level and we will miss their wise advice and hard work.

**David Hammond**  
**Chairman**

## **Trustees' Report for year ended 31st July 2020**

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE IN KENNET (WILTSHIRE) KNOWN AS “U3A IN KENNET” (REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1028680)

### **1. U3A in Kennet—aims**

The U3A movement aims to provide ‘public benefit’ and the charitable purpose of U3A in Kennet is:

*‘The advancement of education and, in particular the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development, in Marlborough and its surrounding locality’*



## **Trustees Report 2020**

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### **2. 2019–20 the Covid 19 pandemic**

The Covid 19 pandemic and lockdown during 2019–20 presented a major challenge to the U3A movement which is predicated on groups of people meeting to learn and share knowledge and experience.

Consequently the U3A in Kennet Executive Committee and the Group Leaders explored innovative approaches for communication and dialogue to support ongoing education and contact between members whilst ensuring adherence to national and U3A Trust requirements and guidance.

Following the imposition of the national lockdown in March 2020, the use of the Zoom video conferencing facility was explored early to facilitate continuation of activity for U3A in Kennet meetings and at individual Group level. Training sessions on the use of the system were offered along with written guidance notes resulting in its adoption by more than half of the groups. A Zoom Pro licence was purchased to support the Kennet Talks and Coffee Exchange sessions enabling up to 100 individual to join each event and sessions of more than 40 minutes duration as well as a dial-in facility for members who were unable or unwilling to participate online. National guidance prevented groups from meeting as usual whether in members' homes, external venues such as the Friends' Meeting House or leisure centre facilities such as table tennis and bowls, the walking, cycling, day trips and theatre groups.

Some groups adopted conference call arrangements using WHYPAY? and a system of 'email buddies' was developed to maintain contact and share information with members who do not have access to the internet

The frequency of the monthly eBulletin was increased to two per month for several months and members were encouraged to share information, photographs and updates.

### **3. U3A in Kennet**

#### **3a) Membership**

The total membership of the U3A in Kennet by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020 was 647 (624 in July 2019) including 2 Honorary and 3 'Retired' members with a further 7 Associate members (6 from Pewsey and 1 from Devizes).

#### **3b) Groups – numbers / progress**

A total of 65 groups were available to members initially during 2019–20 and following the imposition of the Covid 19 lockdown restrictions 34 were able to continue functioning with the use of technology (Zoom, Teleconferences and

## **Trustees Report 2020 (continued)**

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email). 26 groups were suspended pro tem and a further 5 groups met occasionally as required or were not operating during the year due to lack of demand.

### **3c) Programme of events.**

The quarterly 'Kennet U3A Talks' at the Kennet Valley Hall were well attended during 2019–20 and continued after the imposition of the Covid 19 lockdown with the use of Zoom. The following sessions took place:

- Bernard Lockett: *Gilbert and Sullivan* 23.10.2019 (75 attendees)
- Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire: *Case Studies from Wiltshire Council Archaeology* 19.2.2020 (61 attendees)
- Sir Muir Gray, CBE: *'How to stay well and increase wellbeing, physically and mentally, during the lockdown, and live longer better in the years to come'*.17.6.2020 (100 attendees)

The monthly 'Coffee Exchange' sessions at the Marlborough Wesley Hall continued until February 2020 providing a regular meeting opportunity for members and for disseminating U3A news. The sessions also enabled potential and new members to find out more about U3A in Kennet.

The Coffee Exchange sessions re commenced in June with the use of Zoom and included the facility for break out rooms to enable small groups of members to chat informally in addition to the main presentations. Guest speakers included:

- Genevieve Clarke; *Marlborough Literary Festival 2019*
- Alexa Davies, Wiltshire Council Community Engagement Manager
- Nick Stedman, *The Swindon to Marlborough Railway path*
- Matt Fruci: *Do you lose muscle as you age?*
- AnnMarie Newbigin & Jill Turner. *Kennet Valley Oral History Project*
- Jeff Hide, *Tuk Tuk*
- Riona Houghton, *Marie Curie*

### **3d) Trustees / Executive Committee membership / meetings**

The election of Executive Committee Officers and Members at the Annual General Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019 resulted in a number of changes. The Chairman: Graham Barnes had completed his term of office and Chris Gamblin and Jan Lillywhite were re-elected. AnnMarie Newbigin, eBulletin editor and Nick Swan, Membership Secretary both resigned at the AGM and were thanked for their contributions. Chris Webb and Mike Morison had been co-opted during the year and were elected at the AGM along with Tom Horwitz.

## **Trustees Report 2020 (continued)**

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The full Committee is shown below:

Chairman:	David Hammond
Vice Chairman:	Jill Turner also Charity Commission contact
Treasurer:	Randal Richards
Secretary:	Jenny Oakshott
Committee Member:	Mike Morison Membership Secretary, Beacon system Lead
Committee Member:	Chris Gamblin, Groups Co-ordinator
Committee Member:	Jan Lillywhite, Social Secretary
Committee Member:	Chris Webb, Speaker Secretary
Committee Member:	John Martin, Publicity
Committee Member:	Tom Horwitz, Website

The Executive Committee met on 5 occasions at 2 monthly intervals during 2019-20.

Sub Committees including those for Finance, Strategy and Development, 'Special Interest Day', Communications, Governance and Groups also met as necessary during the year.

### **4. Research and education.**

The Executive Committee continued to investigate opportunities to develop further learning opportunities for members including research projects with non-U3A collaborators; Shared Learning Projects notably a collaboration with the Marlborough History Society and the Merchant's House Trust to pursue an oral history project in the local area. Inevitably the project was suspended following the pandemic restrictions.

The educational links with Marlborough College which began in 2018 continued with the development of a Special Interest Day on "Climate Change and Sustainable Futures," which was planned for 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020. The event was also postponed due to the pandemic with a revised date of 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021: dependant on the prevailing circumstances.

### **5. Communications: magazines, ebulletins, website and document storage**

The importance of maintaining regular and effective communication with members during the pandemic lockdown period was acknowledged and the frequency of the revamped monthly ebulletin was increased along with editions of the quarterly magazine and the annual yearbook. The website was updated with new events and more information about group activities and members were updated regularly on matters concerning the pandemic and

## **Trustees Report 2020 (continued)**

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local U3A activity. A system of email 'buddies' was developed to ensure that those members without email were contacted too.

### **6. Financial matters**

#### **6a) Income and expenditure**

The final accounts for the financial year ending 31st July 2020 (excluding any income and expenditure relating to the Special Interest Day) demonstrate a total general income for the U3A of £9,756.55 and a total expenditure of £7,824.61, resulting in a surplus for the year of £1,931.94.

The Special Interest Day attracted considerable interest resulting in the receipt of fees totalling £4,015.00. The allocation of expenses and refunds resulting from the postponement of the event totalled £913.62. The net receipts of £3,101.38 have been carried over in the 2020-21 accounts.

The Groups Account commenced the year with an opening balance of £1,951.29. A total of £13,117.72 was received during the year with expenditure of £11,353.68, resulting in a closing balance of £3,715.33.

*The Committee are* currently seeking an Examiner of the accounts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020.

Annual membership subscriptions were maintained at £12 per person with an initial joining fee of £3.

A number of small grants were made to Groups during the reporting period to the total of £201.09.

#### **6b) Asset register**

The U3A in Kennet asset register was checked and updated during the year. The total value of assets remains within the limits of the standard U3A Trust insurance policy.

### **7. Summary**

Despite the challenges imposed by the Covid19 pandemic, U3A in Kennet continued to function and developed its range of support for members during the year August 2019 – July 2020 with plans for the future to support further expansion.

The Executive Committee thanks all Group Leaders for their active and committed support for U3A in Kennet and all members for their interest and involvement.

## **Trustees Report 2020 (continued) / Treasurer's Report**

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Report prepared on behalf of U3A in Kennet by Jill Turner, Vice Chair and Contact for the Charity Commissioners [charities@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:charities@u3ainkennet.org.uk).  
**August 2020**

### **Treasurer's Report and Accounts**

#### **Financial Year 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020**

At the end of July 2020, the post of treasurer transferred from Randal Richards to Kiaran Roughan. Randal, who had occupied the post for just over 2 years, has moved away from the area. Randal handed over up to date and well organised and well-presented financial systems and accounts to Kiaran. The Committee have sent their grateful thanks to Randal for the excellent service he provided in the role of Treasurer.

The accounts for 2019–20, reported on below, have been finalised by Kiaran Roughan but most of the work in pulling them together had already been put in place by Randal.

The accompanying accounts show that subscription income rose by 10% compared to the income received in 2018–19. Gift aid income also increased significantly (66%) although it was noted at the October 2018 AGM that a reduced gift aid contribution was anticipated for 2018–19.

The accounts record a total general income (excluding any income relating to the Special Interest Day – see below) for the U3A in 2019–20 of £9,756.50.

The covid lockdown, commencing in March 2020, resulted in the postponement of the planned Special Interest day that was due to be held in May 2020. That event, which was subject to a fee for attendance, attracted considerable interest with all tickets being sold. This resulted in an income of £4,015, although with the postponement of the event, around £900 was been refunded before the end of July 2020. The event has been postponed, provisionally until May 2021, and the net receipts of £3,101.38 are being carried over into the 2020–21 Accounts.

The covid lockdown has had an impact on expenditure in the year, with reduced expenditure in a number of areas:

- General expenditure shows that venue hire for U3A wide events increased by £40 over the expenditure in 2019–20. However, this is offset by a refund of £117 credited in General Income. Spending on Venue hire was therefore £77 less for the year compared to 2019–20 (net expenditure –

## **Treasurer's Report and Accounts (continued)**

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£162.50) due to the cancellation of physical events as a result of lockdown;

- There were no expenses incurred attending any national or regional U3A meetings. The National Third Age Trust AGM was not held;
- Speakers fees were significantly less than previous years as planned events were cancelled or undertaken virtually via Zoom;
- Only one of the 2 planned New Members Lunches was held with the one planned for May 2020 having to be cancelled.
- Many of the planned Coffee Exchange events were held via Zoom, which resulted in savings on anticipated room hire and refreshments costs;

Other areas of expenditure of note are:

- Magazine Printing and Distribution costs increased compared to 2018-19 (by 18%)
- A small number of grants were made to individual groups totalling £201.09, an increase on the grants made during 2018-19.

A national U3A day was to have been held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. This attracted a grant of £100 from the U3A Trust. Expenses of £31 were incurred (on a deposit for the hire of the hall in the Town Hall). This event will be re-arranged when lockdown arrangements allow. The net receipts are being carried over into 2020-21.

The total expenditure for the year (excluding any expenditure – mainly ticket refunds relating to the Special Interest Day) was £7,824.61 resulting in a surplus for the year (excluding any income/expenditure relating to the Special Interest Day) of £1,931.94.

The reserves in the deposit account amount to £18,268.88, which includes monies accrued for the Special Interest Day and National U3A day, both of which were postponed due to the covid lockdown.

The annual income and expenditure for Groups shows a surplus of £1,764.04. The covid lockdown meant that groups had to cancel or postpone planned events for which they had collected subscriptions. Monies that have not been refunded are carried over.

The Accounts for 2019-20 have been inspected by Mr Ron Mitchell, an independent accountant who is not a member of the U3A.

**Kieran Roughan, Treasurer, August 2020.**



## Group News

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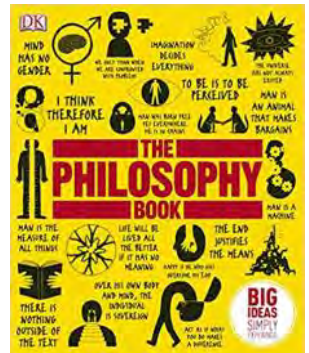
### Covid Risk Assessments for Group Activities

The government's coronavirus guidelines and regulations have changed several times over the last few months. The U3A National Office has issued guidance which implements government guidance: no more than six people can meet up outside the home and no more than two households can meet indoors. Social distancing should be observed (2 metres or 1 metre plus additional protection such as a screen or face covering). Where premises have followed specific "covid-secure" guidelines (for example in pubs and restaurants) more people can gather but there should be no "social interaction" beyond the two household limit. Any participant should consider their own health vulnerability and that of any household member and should not attend if anyone has symptoms. Any local lockdown could supersede this by introducing additional limitations.

Before any face-to-face group activity can take place a Risk Assessment must be carried out by the Group Leader and the Groups Coordinator informed and consulted.

### New Philosophy Group holds first meeting

The first new group launched during the lockdown held its first meeting on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August with twelve people joining a Zoom call. The first discussion centred on Plato and Aristotle and their respective views of virtue and wisdom. The group is using an easily accessible book (The Philosophy Book) to inform its discussions but these ranged far and wide in an entertaining hour. The group agreed to continue meeting monthly.



Contact: Angie Powey [philosophy@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:philosophy@u3ainkennet.org.uk)



## Group News (continued)

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### History and Current Affairs Groups continue

The three groups (English History, European History and Current Affairs Groups) led by Michael Hart continued to meet virtually from April 2020 and, unlike previous years, they continued during July and August by popular demand from members of the groups..

The English History Group considered aspects of English Foreign Policy while the European History Group focussed on empires and civilisations: the Byzantine, Ottoman and Arab.

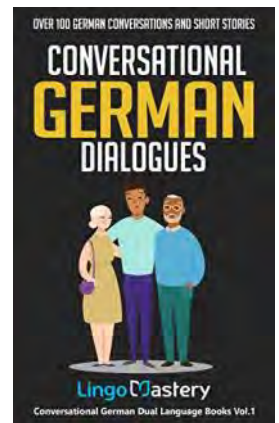
The "Looking at Other Countries Group" changed its focus back to "Current Affairs" – the former name of this Group. The regular monthly sessions were increased from May 2020 to two sessions a month considering a wide range of topical subjects including the pandemic, education, racism, world population and climate change.

The Groups used the WHYPAY telephone conferencing system supplemented with the circulation of documents by email in advance of each session if necessary.

**Contacts:** *English History* [history1@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:history1@u3ainkennet.org.uk)  
*European History* [history2@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:history2@u3ainkennet.org.uk)  
*Current Affairs:* [current@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:current@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

### German Conversation Group moves to weekly meetings

A small group from the German Conversation Group is now meeting weekly on Zoom. Having shorter meetings more frequently helps to consolidate progress. The group is using a new text for the meetings: "German Conversational Dialogues" which has proved very helpful. A small group is also meeting up in members' gardens once a month.

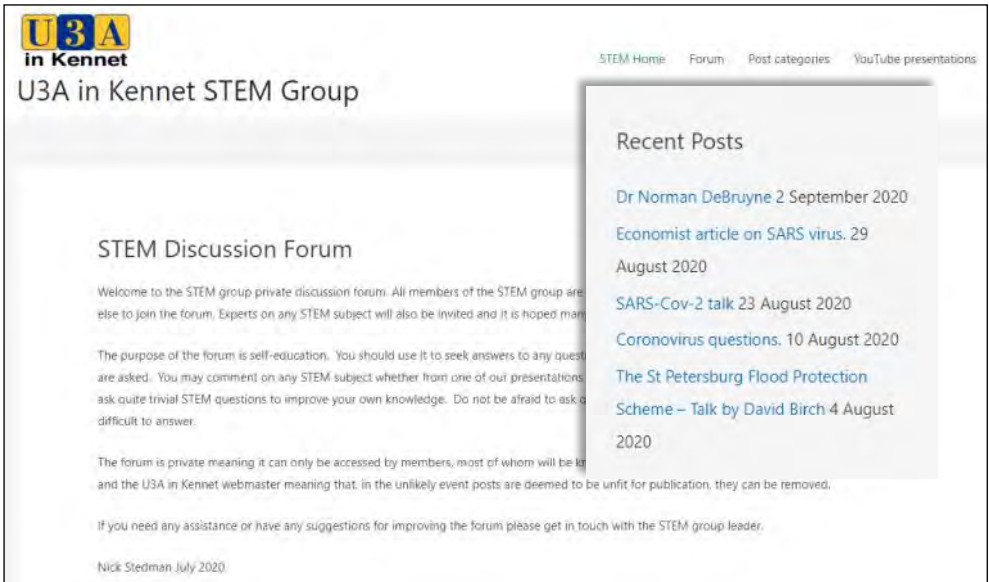


**Contact:** *Bill Buxton* [german.talk@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:german.talk@u3ainkennet.org.uk)

## Group News (continued)

# Science Technology and Engineering Group changes its name and launches a new on-line forum

The Science Technology and Engineering Group has now changed its name to the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Group. It has also launched a new on-line forum.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the U3A in Kennet STEM Group forum. At the top left is the U3A in Kennet logo. Below it, the text reads "U3A in Kennet STEM Group". On the right side, there are navigation links: "STEM Home", "Forum", "Post categories", and "YouTube presentations". The main heading is "STEM Discussion Forum". Below this, there is a welcome message: "Welcome to the STEM group private discussion forum. All members of the STEM group are else to join the forum. Experts on any STEM subject will also be invited and it is hoped many". This is followed by a paragraph explaining the forum's purpose: "The purpose of the forum is self-education. You should use it to seek answers to any question asked. You may comment on any STEM subject whether from one of our presentations, ask quite trivial STEM questions to improve your own knowledge. Do not be afraid to ask questions difficult to answer." Another paragraph states: "The forum is private meaning it can only be accessed by members, most of whom will be invited and the U3A in Kennet webmaster meaning that, in the unlikely event posts are deemed to be unfit for publication, they can be removed." At the bottom, it says: "If you need any assistance or have any suggestions for improving the forum please get in touch with the STEM group leader." and "Nick Stedman July 2020". A "Recent Posts" sidebar on the right lists: "Dr Norman DeBruyne 2 September 2020", "Economist article on SARS virus. 29 August 2020", "SARS-Cov-2 talk 23 August 2020", "Coronavirus questions. 10 August 2020", and "The St Petersburg Flood Protection Scheme – Talk by David Birch 4 August 2020".

The STEM Group is a self-learning group for anybody, technical or non-technical, who is curious about the amazing universe and planet we find ourselves in and the people who have contributed to our understanding of it. The on-line forum allows members to discuss, comment on, or ask questions about any of the presentations, current or past, or to seek knowledge on any STEM subject in the world not matter how trivial.

**Contact: Nick Stedman [stem@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:stem@u3ainkennet.org.uk)**

## Obituaries

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**Elinor Mitchenall** died on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at the age of 73 following an unfortunate and tragic fall in her garden. She grew up in Berwick upon Tweed and met her husband Rob in Coventry when they were both working at the East Midlands Electricity Board. After their marriage, they decided to see the world and travelled to Zambia in 1971 where Rob had a job in the Copperbelt. Elinor worked as a travel agent and enjoyed many trips around southern Africa. She followed Rob to new posts in Jeddah, Dubai and Abu Dhabi. It was in these warmer climates that she learned to play golf and to sail.



*Elinor Mitchenall  
at El Portet Spain in March 2020*

Elinor and Rob returned to the UK in 1988 and she started building a promising career at Sussex University before, in 1992, Rob's work moved location and brought them to live in Wootton Rivers.

Elinor soon settled to her new life and after some time joined Africa and Asia Ventures in Devizes, where she worked until 2001 when Rob's work took him abroad again – this time to Riyadh and then South Korea and finally to The Hague. Following retirement Elinor joined the PCC and U3A. She persuaded Rob to join U3A as well and he served on the Executive Committee for 9 years. Elinor also joined the local History Society and Women's Institute. She enjoyed her garden at Dashwood and during the winter months the time she and Rob spent their apartment in Spain.

Elinor will be sadly missed by the U3A Thursday Walking Group and the Wine Appreciation Group as well as her many other friends in U3A. She will be remembered for her kindness and gentle approach to life and to others. The cremation at Royal Wootton Bassett on 4<sup>th</sup> August was preceded by a procession through Wootton Rivers.

Our condolences go to Rob and the wider family.

## Obituaries (continued)

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**Pamela Waugh** died on 16th August 2020 after a relatively short illness. Known to her friends as 'Pam', she was a person who enjoyed an interesting life and had many talents. I am not sure that anyone really knew all about Pam as she had many surprising interests including sport. She played squash and was an excellent tennis player and when she decided that she wasn't playing quite so well any more, decided to take up golf. She also enjoyed music and theatre visits. One of the loves of her life was gardening and she had a large garden of which she was very proud. Pam was extremely independent and practical and she would turn her hand to DIY projects including laying a carpet!



Pam's love of arts and crafts played a large part of her life from when she studied textiles at College and became an excellent dressmaker. She loved painting and in more recent years took to glass making and pottery. You may have seen some of Pam's work during a visit to the Open Studio events.

Her U3A interests lay in the 'History of Art', the History Groups and the Theatre groups.

Pam and Warwick (her husband who died in 2011 and was Treasurer to U3A in Kennet for a number of years), had a sailing boat which was the love of their lives for many years. They spent most of their spare time sailing off somewhere and would often go across the channel to France, a Country they both enjoyed. At the times they couldn't sail, time would be spend on the upkeep and cleaning the boat.

Pam had no children but did have a niece and nephew to whom our thoughts are with as we offer sincere condolences. *by Val Clowes*

## Obituaries (continued)

**Dotty Williams** died in June at the age of 93.

She joined U3A in Kennet in the 1990s and became an excellent Social Secretary in 2002. This was a job she loved, and which enabled her to put her talents to good use.

She was a lovable, generous lady and we all benefitted from her company.

She joined the Embroidery Group about 20 years ago and brought along her poppy tapestry to work on and many years later was still working on it until ill health prevented her from coming to our meetings. Her work remained unfinished and we will be finishing it to give to her daughter in Dotty's memory. It was a pleasure to have known Dotty. *by Rosemary Hawes*



**Liz Jenkins** died at home on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 at the age of 86 after a short illness. Her kindness, energy and spirit will be missed by all who knew her. She was a member of the U3A Strollers Group. Her funeral took place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. We send our condolences to her friends and family.

## New Members

We welcome the following New Members who have joined U3A in Kennet recently .

Bernie Bradshaw

Hermon Dowling

Rob Knight

Caroline Cobbing

Sara Holden

Susan Pitcher

Paul Cobbing

Chris Knight

Diane Zeitzen

## Future events

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Date	Event	Time	Details
16 <sup>th</sup> September	Group Leaders Meeting	14.00	Via Zoom also with telephone access
24 <sup>th</sup> September	Coffee Exchange	10.45	Via Zoom also with telephone access
21 <sup>st</sup> October	Annual General Meeting	14.15	Via Zoom also with telephone access
29 <sup>th</sup> October	Coffee Exchange	10.45	Via Zoom also with telephone access
5 <sup>th</sup> November	Executive Committee Meeting	10.00	Via Zoom
26 <sup>th</sup> November	Coffee Exchange	10.45	Via Zoom also with telephone access
31 <sup>st</sup> December	Coffee Exchange	10.45	Via Zoom also with telephone access

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## Future Kennet U3A Talks

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21<sup>st</sup> October      Antarctic Lockdown: Peter Noble

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Other Talks to be confirmed at a later date

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*If you have any events which you would like included in this Future events section, please send the details (date, event, time, place and contact name) to the Editor at: [magazine@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:magazine@u3ainkennet.org.uk)*

## Current Executive Committee

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**David Hammond**  
Chairman

[chairman@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:chairman@u3ainkennet.org.uk)



**Jill Turner**  
Vice Chairman, Charity  
Commission & Compliance

[vicechair@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:vicechair@u3ainkennet.org.uk)



**Jenny Oakshott**  
Hon Secretary

[secretary@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:secretary@u3ainkennet.org.uk)



**Kiaran Roughan**  
Hon Treasurer

[treasurer@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@u3ainkennet.org.uk)



**Chris Gamblin**  
Groups Coordinator

[groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk](mailto:groups@u3ainkennet.org.uk)



**Mike Morison**  
Membership Secretary  
& Beacon Coordinator

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Unit 9C, Britannia Estates, Legrave Road, Luton, Bedfordshire LU3 1RJ